

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 12976 101402Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05

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R 101142Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2987

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

AMCONSUL FLORENCE UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12976

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, IT

SUBJ: SHOES: CURRENT INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION INVE-
TOGATION

REF: ROME 12687 AND PREVIOUS

1. MINISTRY FOREIGN TRADE (MFT) REP SIMEONE (DIRECTOR,
GATT-EC AFFAIRS AND CURRENTLY CHAIRMAN OF EC 113 COMMITTEE)
TELEPHONED OMBOFF SEPTEMBER 9 TO SAY THAT GOI HAS HEARD
"VAGUE REPORTS" OF FORTHCOMING USG ACTION ON FOOTWEAR IMPORTS.
SIMEONE SAID HE WANTED EMBASSY AND USG TO BE AWARE OF HOW
IMPORTANT US MARKET IS TO ITALIAN SHOE INDUSTRY AND THAT
GOI WOULD CONSIDER ANY USG ACTION TO REDUCE ITALIAN FOOTWEAR
IMPORTS AS A MOST SERIOUS MATTER.

2. COMMENT. SIMEONE'S REMARKS UNDERLINE IMPORTANCE OF PRIOR
CONSULTATIONS WITH GOI. SHOULD USG ACT TO REDUCE FOOTWEAR
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PAGE 02 ROME 12976 101402Z

IMPORTS FROM ITALY, WHOSE EXPORTS TO AND RELATIVE SHAREOF US

FOOTWEAR MARKET ARE ALREADY SHRINKING, EMBASSY BELIEVES GOI WOULD REACT SHARPLY ON BILATERAL BASIS AND IN EC CONTEXT. HOWEVER, IF USG ACTION RESULTS IN MAINTAINING PRESENT LEVEL OF ITALIAN EXPORTS, EMBASSY BELIEVES GOI WOULD BE BASICALLY SATISFIED.

3. USG HAS NOW TAKEN OT IS EXAMINING ACTION ON A WHOLE SERIES OF PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO ITALY -- AUTOMOBILES, ALLOY STEEL, HOSIERY KNITTING MACHINES, FLOAT GLASS (SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE OF REGIONAL AIDS PRINCIPLE), WINE BOTTLING LABELING, AND SHOES. GOI AND PRIVATE SECTOR REPS HAVE USED THESE EXAMPLES ON SEVERAL RECENT OCCASIONS TO QUESTION EXTENT OF USG INTEREST IN MTN.VOLPE

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